

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051561

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOUTHERN AFRICA CLOUDS WILSON'S SUCCESS WITHIN UK

WITH THE SECOND FULL YEAR SINCE WILSON RETURNED TO POWER
DRAWING TO A CLOSE, EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS BOTH ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS AND STRAINS. WILSON HAS:

--KEPT BRITAIN IN THE EC;

--PRESERVED AND STRENGTHENED THE GOVERNMENT'S RELATION-
SHIP WITH THE UNIONS;

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--LAUNCHED AN EFFECTIVE ATTACK ON INFLATION; AND

--DEvised A NEW INCOMES POLICY.

THESE ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE NOT COME WITHOUT POLITICAL COSTS.

--THE LEFT WING OF THE LABOR PARTY IS INCREASINGLY
ALIENATED BY WHAT IT REGARDS AS THE GOVERNMENT'S REPU-
DIATION OF SOCIALIST GOALS.

--THE TORIES ARE RALLYING BEHIND A STEADILY MORE CONFI-
DENT MARGARET THATCHER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE WILSON REMAINS IN FIRM CONTROL AND
THE WORST OF THE RECESSION IS BELIEVED TO BE OVER, THERE IS
A DISCERNIBLE SENSE OF MELANCHOLY IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE.
BRITISH DIPLOMATS FEEL THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR RHODESIA
AND THAT THERE IS LITTLE THIS GOVERNMENT CAN OR WILL DO TO
AVERT THE HUMAN TRAGEDY AND POLITICAL DEFEAT NOW DEVELOPING
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 3314, 3/2.) KISSINGER

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